

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode obtained by adhering an electrode material consisting of hydrogen absorbing alloy powder and a binding agent composed of a polymeric material to a current collector,

wherein an aqueous polymeric material not including a fluorocarbon resin is applied ~~thereon;~~ thereon to form a coating layer, and ~~a polymeric~~ the aqueous polymeric material in said coating layer is different from the polymeric material in the binding agent;

~~wherein the polymeric material in said coating layer is a copolymer comprising at least two elements selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid ester, methacrylic acid ester, aromatic olefin, conjugated diene and olefin~~

wherein the aqueous polymeric material in said coating layer is at least one element selected from the group consisting of styrene-methacrylic acid ester-acrylic acid ester copolymer, ethylene-acrylic acid ester copolymer, methacrylic acid methyl-butadiene copolymer, styrene-butadiene copolymer and butadiene polymer.

2. (Previously Presented) The hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric material in said coating layer is a copolymer comprising at least two elements selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid ester, methacrylic acid ester, aromatic olefin, conjugated diene and olefin.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode according to claim 1, wherein the weight of said coating layer is in the range of 0.1 to 5 % by weight of the total weight of said coating layer, hydrogen absorbing alloy powder and the binding agent.

5. (Original) The hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode according to claim 1, wherein the weight of said coating layer is in the range of 0.2 to 2 % by weight of the total weight of said coating layer, hydrogen absorbing alloy powder and the binding agent.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) An alkaline storage battery, wherein the hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode according to claim 1 is employed as its negative electrode.